# Home School Idaho

A compilation of resources, Idaho laws and other information designed for parents or guardians considering home school.



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www.sde.state.id.us/instruct/docs/homeschool/HomeSchool.pdf

#### **Home School in Idaho - Introduction**

#### IDAHO DOES NOT REGULATE OR MONITOR HOME SCHOOL EDUCATION

What does this mean? Home school education is directed solely by the parent/guardian.

- No registration or sign up procedure.
- Parents research and select the curriculum they wish to use.
- A "packaged" curriculum is NOT provided by the State. (See organizations below to help with this process.)
- All costs associated with home school are the responsibility of the parent/guardian (textbooks, supplies, etc.).
- State funding is not currently available to provide assistance for home school.

By law, parents/guardians are required to provide "comparable instruction" in "subjects commonly and usually taught in public schools....during a period each year equal to that in which the public schools are in session."

If you are a parent/guardian considering home school, you are encouraged to contact the home school organizations and/or the public virtual education programs listed in this document for assistance.

Idaho's statutes (laws) are also provided pertaining to school age, compulsory education, dual enrollment options, and proceedings against parents/guardians found to be negligent under the laws.

If, after reviewing the information provided, you have any questions please e-mail the Department at homeschool@sde.state.id.us or call (208) 332-6902.

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#### **Idaho Home School Organizations & Resource Websites**

The State Department of Education provides the following information as a service to assist in connecting with other home schooling families and groups. The Department does not endorse or have any direct affiliation with these individuals, organizations or websites.

#### **Idaho Coalition of Home Educators**

PO Box 878 Eagle, ID 83616 http://www.iche-idaho.org

#### **Home Educators of Idaho**

3618 Pine Hill Drive Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815 (208) 667-2778

#### **Port Cities Home Educators**

P.O. Box 2052 Lewiston, ID 83501 Phone: (208) 743-0891 http://www.pche.net

#### **Christian Home Schoolers of Idaho State (CHOIS)**

P.O. Box 45062 Boise, ID 83711-5062 http://www.chois.org

#### **Idaho LDS Home Educators**

http://www.ldshome-educators.com

#### Websites:

National Home Education Network: http://www.nhen.org

Home School World: http://www.home-school.com/groups/ID.html

Home Schooling...A Light at the End of the Tunnel: <a href="http://www.geocities.com/hs\_hopeful">http://www.geocities.com/hs\_hopeful</a>

#### **Accredited Distance Education Programs/Schools**

Home school families may meet the intent of Idaho Code 33-202 (Compulsory School Attendance) by utilizing any of the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) accredited distance education programs/schools listed below.

#### Important note regarding public high school diplomas:

Completion of distance education coursework, while meeting the intent of state law, does not necessarily entitle a home-schooled student to a high school diploma from a local public school. Should a parent/guardian decide to enroll or re-enroll their child in public schools to pursue a high school diploma, credits earned from these NAAS-accredited distance education programs/schools are accepted by NAAS-accredited Idaho high schools and are generally accepted by schools accredited through the State of Idaho. However, school districts have local policy concerning how their schools might recognize credits earned through distance education. For example, a school might recognize only a designated number of credits towards a high school diploma but may show all credits on the transcript. Parents utilizing these distance education programs should check with their local public school districts, in advance if possible, if they intend to request recognition of credit towards a public high school diploma.

#### **NAAS Accredited Distance Education Programs/Schools**

Apex Learning www.apexlearning.com	Seattle, WA	800-453-1454
Brigham Young University Independent Study Program http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/	n Provo, UT	800-914-8931
Christa McAuliffe Academy Distance Learning Prograwww.cmacademy.org/	m Yakima, WA	866-575-4989
Chugach Extension School www.chugachschools.com	Anchorage, AK	907-522-7400
COOLSchool www.cyberschool.k12.or.us	Albany, OR	541-687-6950
Craig Alternative/PACE Charter School www.paceschool.net	Craig, AK	877-935-5655
Delta Cyber School www.dcs.k12.ak.us	Delta Junction, AK	877-895-1043
Guided Independent Study School www.northstar.k12.ak.us/schools/gis/	Fairbanks, AK 907-	452-2000 x.201
Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) www.idla.k12.id.us	Boise, ID	208-342-0207
Idaho Virtual High School *School changed names, see Richard McKenna Charter Hi		intain Home, ID

IDEA International www.intidea.org	Fairbanks, AK	907-562-4332
Interior Distance Education of Alaska (IDEA) www.ideafamilies.org	Anchorage, AK	877-582-4332
Internet Academy www.iacademy.org	Federal Way, WA	253-945-2230
Keystone National High School www.keystonehighschool.com	Bloomsburg, PA	800-255-4937
Liahona Academy www.liahona-homeschooling.com	Pleasant Grove, UT	801-785-7850
NorthStar Academy www.northstar-academy.org	Kalispell, MT	888-464-6280
Odyssey Charter School www.odysseyk12.org	Las Vegas, NV	702-257-0578
Power-Glide Foreign Language School <a href="https://www.power-glide.com">www.power-glide.com</a>	Provo, UT	800-596-0910
Richard McKenna Charter High School www.idvhs.org	Mountain Home, ID	208-580-2449
Southern Oregon Online School (SOOS) www2.soesd.k12.or.us/it/o2/	Medford, OR	800-636-7453
Sycamore Academy www.sycamoreacademy.com	Costa Mesa, CA	714-668-1343
The Electronic High School <a href="http://ehs.uen.org">http://ehs.uen.org</a>	Salt Lake City, UT	801-538-7736
University of Idaho Independent Study Program www.uidaho.edu/isi	Moscow, ID	208-885-6641

#### **State of Idaho Accredited Distance Education School**

In addition to the three highlighted Idaho schools listed above, the State of Idaho currently accredits the following elementary distance education school:

#### **Idaho Virtual Academy**

P.O. Box 191099 Boise, Idaho 83719 Phone: (208) 322-3688 http://www.idahova.org

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- 1. Idaho's Education Laws
- 2. Who is responsible?
- 3. Choices for parents/guardians regarding education
- 4. Action against parents who appear to violate mandates in Idaho Code
- 5. Must parents be certified to teach?
- 6. Is it required to report grades or attendance?
- 7. Does home school have to occur on the same days/hours as public school?
- 8. What subject areas are required?
- 9. How does a parent determine age appropriate curriculum?
- 10. Where can a parent get materials/textbooks?
- 11. Who is responsible for the cost of home schooling?
- 12. Can a home-schooled child participate in extra curricular activities?
- 13. Participation in statewide assessments
- 14. Grade-level placement of a home-schooled student into public school
- 15. When deciding to home school, how does a parent withdraw the student from public school?
- 16. Can a home-schooled student receive a high school diploma from the state or public school?
- 17. District obligation for providing high school credits
- 18. If special curriculum is taught, can a student receive a diploma if enrolling in a public high school as a junior or senior?
- 19. Alternative options to a high school diploma
- 20. Can a home-schooled student attend college?
- 21. What about the "Driver's License Law"?

#### 1. How and where does Idaho law address education?

Idaho Constitution, Article 9, Section 1 requires the state legislature to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free, common schools. Idaho Code, Title 33, Section 101-116 provides for a state board of education with general supervision and control of all state education institutions and the public school system. For the most part, Idaho's education laws are found in Title 33 of the Idaho Code (<a href="http://www3.state.id.us/">http://www3.state.id.us/</a> - select Idaho Statutes)

#### 2. Who is responsible for the education of a child in Idaho?

Parents are responsible for providing for their children's education.

Idaho Code, Title 33, Section 202: The <u>parent or guardian</u> of any child resident in this state who has attained the age of (7) years at the time of the commencement of school in his district, but not the age of sixteen (16) years, shall cause the child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the state of Idaho.

#### 3. What choices do parents or guardians have under the law regarding their child's education?

Parents may send their child to a public, private or parochial school or provide a comparable education at home.

Idaho Code, Title 33, Section 202: (continued) Unless the child is otherwise comparably instructed, the parent or guardian shall cause the child to attend a public, private, or parochial school during a period in each year equal to that in which the public schools are in session; there to conform to the attendance policies and regulations established by the board of trustees, or other governing body, operating the school attended.

## 4. What action can be taken against parents or guardians who might appear to violate the Compulsory School Attendance mandate identified in Idaho Code 33-202?

Proceedings may be brought against such parent or guardian under the provisions of the juvenile corrections act 20-510 and 20-522.

## 5. Must parents or guardians be certified teachers or meet other qualifications in order to teach their child at home?

No. Idaho has no teacher certification requirement for a parent/guardian who chooses to provide a comparable education for his/her child at home.

## 6. Are parents or guardians obligated to report attendance and/or grades to the local school district office or to a state agency?

No. It is the sole responsibility of parents or guardians to monitor their child's progress and attendance in a home school.

## 7. Is there a requirement to conduct home school instruction on the exact same days the public schools are open?

No. A parent or guardian has the responsibility of setting hours of instruction per day and deciding what days of the week instruction occurs. Since home school instruction must be "comparable" to public school instruction, parents should be aware of the instructional time requirements for public schools:

- Kindergarten, four hundred fifty (450) hours per year;
- Grades one through three (1-3), eight hundred ten (810) hours per year;
- Grades four through eight (4-8), nine hundred (900) hours per year; and
- Grades nine through twelve (9-12), nine hundred ninety (990) hours per year.

## 8. What subjects must parents or guardians include in their child's education in order to be in compliance with the requirement to "comparably instruct" their child?

The State Board of Education's Administrative Rules list core instructional requirements for public schools:

- Language Arts and Communication (including reading, writing, English, literature, technological applications, spelling, speech and listening)
- Mathematics (including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages, mathematical reasoning and probability)
- Science (including applied sciences, earth and space sciences, physical sciences, and life sciences)
- Social Studies (including history, government, geography, economics, current world affairs, citizenship, and sociology)
- And a variety of other subjects such as fine arts (art and music), health (wellness), and physical education (fitness)

To review this rule in its entirety, please visit <a href="http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules">http://www2.state.id.us/adm/adminrules</a> under Administrative Code; Education, Board of; and Rules Governing Thoroughness 08.01.03, sections 103 (grades 1-6), 104 (middle school) and 107 (graduation requirements).

The State Board of Education has developed Idaho Achievement Standards, which fully outline the

knowledge, skills and abilities expected of Idaho students by grade level and course subject. This is a resource that can be used to measure a student's academic development. They can be found at <a href="http://www.idahoboardofed.org/saa/standards.asp">http://www.idahoboardofed.org/saa/standards.asp</a>

## 9. How does a parent determine the content of age appropriate (grade level) curriculum that would be comparable with public school instruction?

At this time, the State of Idaho does not have state-mandated curricula for the public schools. Each public school district in Idaho develops district standards that align with the state achievement standards and appropriate curricula for that district. Most schools (and school districts) will share their grade-level standards and curricula with home school instructors upon request.

Suggested courses of study are now available on the Idaho State Department of Education's website at <a href="https://www.sde.state.id.us/admin/coursesofstudy/">www.sde.state.id.us/admin/coursesofstudy/</a>

#### 10. Where can a parent or guardian get the material/textbooks for home schooling?

Curriculum material/textbooks are available at school supply stores located throughout the state. There are also mail order companies that specialize in home school curricula.

#### 11. Who is responsible for costs associated with home schooling?

The parent or guardian is responsible for all costs associated with home schooling. The Idaho State Department of Education does not provide funds or materials for home schools.

## 12. Is it possible for a home-schooled child to participate in public school classes or extra-curricular activities?

Yes. Idaho Code, Section 33-203 (commonly known as the Dual Enrollment Law): The parent or guardian of a child of school age who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or public charter school shall be allowed to enroll the student in a public school for dual enrollment purposes. Contact the school or district for more information on enrollment or policies.

#### 13. May a home-schooled child participate in statewide tests or assessments?

Yes. Home-schooled students may participate in statewide tests along with public school students. If parents or guardians wish their home-schooled child to participate in the testing, the parent or guardian must notify the public school at the beginning of the school year. (The public school will include the child in the number provided to the state when ordering test materials.) Test results will be available from the school.

For more information regarding statewide assessments, please go to our website at <a href="https://www.sde.state.id.us/instruct/counseling/">www.sde.state.id.us/instruct/counseling/</a>

In addition, the Idaho Coalition of Home Educators (ICHE) provides the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to member families in March of each year. Registration with the ICHE must be completed by September 6.

## 14. Who is responsible for determining the placement (grade-level) of a student transferring from home school to public school?

It is the responsibility of the school (or district) to place transferred students in an appropriate grade.

The Idaho State Department of Education does not dictate policy to school districts regarding the placement of students. Examples of what a district may use for determining placement include testing, review of home school coursework and/or records, or provisional placement in an age-level grade.

## 15. If parents decide to home school their child, how do they withdraw their child from a public school?

Parents should contact the school office, in person and/or in writing, to let the school know that the child will be comparably instructed at home and is being withdrawn from public school. The school may have a withdrawal form to be completed by the parent or guardian. If a parent does not withdraw the child, the child may remain on the school attendance list and may be considered truant.

## 16. Can a home-schooled student receive a high school diploma from the state or from a public school?

No. Idaho does not have a state diploma, and school districts issue diplomas for students who have taken their course work in that school system and completed the district's requirements for graduation. Parents or guardians can learn more about specific school district policies on home instruction by contacting the district in which they reside.

#### 17. What is the obligation of the school district in providing credit for home-schooled students?

Districts have no obligation to acknowledge or accept credit from any non-accredited educational agency or from a home school transcript. High schools accredited through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) accept credits earned from those distance-learning programs and other educational agencies accredited through NAAS or any of the other five regional accrediting associations. However, school districts have considerable flexibility in developing local policy concerning the number of distance education credits that can be recognized towards the awarding of a diploma from their high schools.

## 18. If I choose to use my own curricular materials in instructing my child at home rather than utilize an accredited distance education program, is there a way that my students could get a high school diploma if they enter the high school at a later date, i.e. their junior or senior year?

Districts may, but are not obligated to, use proficiency tests in selected subject areas to accommodate students who have been home schooled. In these situations a home-schooled student could challenge the content of the course by passing the test and be given credit. District policy determines which courses can be challenged and the extent to which such credit earned might be recognized towards a high school diploma. Again, parents should check with local school districts concerning their policies in recognizing or awarding credit earned through non-accredited programs or home schools.

#### 19. Are other options available to home-schooled students who have completed their education?

At the age of eighteen (18) a student may take the General Education Development (GED) test and, upon successful completion of all requirements, may apply for a GED Certificate or an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate. There are exceptions to the age criteria. For testing locations and more information, please call (208) 332-6933 or go to <a href="https://www.sde.state.id.us/certification/adulted.asp.">www.sde.state.id.us/certification/adulted.asp.</a>

## 20. If a child does not graduate from an accredited high school, can he or she attend a public college or university in Idaho?

Yes, a home-schooled student may attend an Idaho college or university after attaining a satisfactory

score on an entrance examination or passing a GED examination. The student may be enrolled on a provisional basis that could change to regular enrollment status after successfully completing a number of semesters. Contact the public college or university admissions office for specific enrollment requirements.

## 21. What about the "Driver's License Law" and how does a parent or guardian show the Idaho Department of Transportation that a child is being instructed at home?

Idaho Code, Title 49, Section 303A requires verification that a minor, younger than age eighteen (18), is enrolled in school or has a high school diploma in order to receive a driver's license. Homeschooled students will need to have Form ITD-3856 (available at the Idaho Department of Transportation and also included in this website) completed when they apply for a driver's license.

#### **Idaho Statutes Pertaining to Compulsory School Attendance**

#### Idaho Code 33-201. School Age.

The services of the public schools of this state are extended to any acceptable person of school age. "School age" is defined as including all persons resident of the state, between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years. For the purposes of this section, the age of five (5) years shall be attained when the fifth anniversary of birth occurs on or before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to enroll in kindergarten. For a child enrolling in the first grade, the age of six (6) years must be reached on or before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to enroll. Any child of the age of five (5) years who has completed a private or public out-of-state kindergarten for the required four hundred fifty (450) hours but has not reached the "school age" requirement in Idaho shall be allowed to enter the first grade.

For resident children with disabilities who qualify for special education and related services under the federal individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA) and subsequent amendments thereto, and applicable state and federal regulations, "school age" shall begin at the attainment of age three (3) and shall continue through the semester of school in which the student attains the age of twenty-one (21) years.

#### Idaho Code 33-202. School Attendance Compulsory.

The parent or guardian of any child resident in this state who has attained the <u>age of seven (7) years</u> at the time of the commencement of school in his district, but <u>not the age of sixteen (16) years</u>, shall cause the child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the state of Idaho. Unless the child is otherwise <u>comparably</u> instructed, the parent or guardian shall cause the child to attend a public, private or parochial school during a period in each year equal to that in which the public schools are in session; there to conform to the attendance policies and regulations established by the board of trustees, or other governing body, operating the school attended.

#### Idaho Code 33-203. Dual Enrollment.

- 1) The parent or guardian of a child of school age who is enrolled in a nonpublic school or a public charter school shall be allowed to enroll the student in a public school for dual enrollment purposes. The board of trustees of the school district shall adopt procedures governing enrollment pursuant to this section. If enrollment in a specific program reaches the maximum for the program, priority for enrollment shall be given to a student who is enrolled full time in the public noncharter school.
- 2) Any student participating in dual enrollment may enter into any program in the public school available to other students subject to compliance with the eligibility requirements herein and the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance that apply to any student's participation in the activity, except that the academic eligibility requirements for participation in nonacademic activities are as provided herein.
- 3) Any school district shall be allowed to include dual-enrolled nonpublic school and public charter school students for the purposes of state funding only to the extent of the student's participation in the public school programs.
- 4) Oversight of academic standards relating to participation in nonacademic public school activities shall be the responsibility of the primary educational provider for that student. In order for any nonpublic school student or public charter school student to participate in nonacademic public school activities for which public school students must demonstrate academic proficiency or eligibility, the

nonpublic school or public charter school student shall demonstrate composite grade-level academic proficiency on any state board of education recognized achievement test, portfolio, or other mechanism as provided for in state board of education rules. Additionally, a student shall be eligible if he achieves a minimum composite, core or survey test score with the average or higher than average range as established by the test service utilized on any nationally-normed test. Demonstrated proficiency shall be used to determine eligibility for the current and next following school years. School districts shall provide to nonpublic students who wish to participate in dual enrollment activities the opportunity to take state tests or other standardized tests given to all regularly enrolled public school students.

- 5) A public school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility is ineligible to participate in nonacademic public school activities as a nonpublic school or public charter school student for the duration of the school year in which the student becomes academically ineligible and for the following academic year.
- 6) A nonpublic school or public charter school student participating in nonacademic public school activities must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school for which the student participates.
- 7) Dual enrollment shall include the option of joint enrollment in a regular public school and an alternative public school program. The state board of education shall establish rules that provide funding to school districts for each student who participates in both a regular public school program and an alternative public school program.
- 8) Dual enrollment shall include the option of enrollment in a post-secondary institution. Any credits earned from an accredited post-secondary institution shall be credited toward state board of education high school graduation requirements.
- 9) A nonpublic student is any student who receives educational instruction outside a public school classroom and such instruction can include, but is not limited to, a private school or a home school.

<u>Idaho Code 33-206. Habitual truant defined.</u> An habitual truant is any public school pupil who, in the judgment of the board of trustees, repeatedly has violated the attendance regulations established by the board; or any child whose parents or guardians, or any of them, have failed or refused to cause such child to be instructed as provided in section 33-202, Idaho Code, and the child shall come under the purview of the juvenile corrections act if he or she is within the age of compulsory attendance.

Whenever it is determined by the board of trustees of any school district that any child enrolled in public school repeatedly has violated the attendance regulations established by the board, or whenever it is determined by the board under provisions providing due process of law for the student and his or her parents that the parents or guardians of any child are failing to meet the requirements of section 33-202, Idaho Code, an authorized representative of the board shall notify in writing the prosecuting attorney in the county of the pupil's residence and recommend that a petition shall be filed in the magistrates division of the district court of the county of the pupil's residence, in such form as the court may require under the provisions of section 20-510, Idaho Code.

#### Idaho Code 33-207. Proceedings Against Parents or Guardians.

Whenever it has been determined by the probate court of any county that the parents or guardians of any child between the ages of seven (7), as qualified in section 33-202, and sixteen (16), are failing, neglecting or refusing to place the child in school as provided in this chapter or to have the child comparably instructed, or knowingly have allowed a pupil to become a habitual truant, proceedings shall be brought against such parent or guardian under the provisions of the Juvenile Corrections Act.

<u>Idaho Code 20-510. Information -- Investigation -- Petition</u>. Any peace officer, any prosecuting attorney, or any authorized representative of the board of trustees of a school district of this state, having knowledge of a juvenile who is within the purview of this act may file a petition with the court in such form as may be required by the court, except a peace officer may also issue a citation for a curfew violation pursuant to section 20-549, Idaho Code. Said individual or agency shall be responsible for providing the evidence to support the allegations made in the petition, provided this in no way shall relieve peace officers from enforcement of the law as set forth in section 31-2227, Idaho Code, Enforcement of Penal Laws. The court shall make a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the interests of the public or of the juvenile require that further action be taken. Such inquiry may be made through the county probation officer or such other agent or investigation officer designated by the court. Thereupon, the court may make such informal adjustment as is practicable, or dismiss the petition, or set the matter for hearing. If an informal adjustment is made, it shall provide for full or partial restitution in the manner and form prescribed by the court when the offense involves loss or damage of property of another. A probation officer shall not file a petition unless the juvenile has previously been under the jurisdiction of the court. The petition and all subsequent court documents shall be entitled "In the interest of ..., a juvenile under eighteen (18) years of age." The petition may be made upon information and belief but it shall be made under oath. It shall set forth plainly: (1) the facts which bring the juvenile within the purview of this act; (2) the name, age, and residence of the juvenile; (3) the names and residences of his parents and spouse, if any; (4) the name and residence of his legal guardian, if there be one, or the person or persons having custody or control of the juvenile, or of the nearest known relative if no parent or guardian can be found. If any of the facts herein required are not known by the petitioner the petition shall so state.

Service of a petition upon the parents, legal guardian or person or persons having custody or control of the juvenile shall subject the parents, legal guardian or person or persons having custody or control of the juvenile to the provisions of this chapter. The petition shall inform the parents, legal guardian or other person legally obligated to care for and support the juvenile that service of the petition upon them shall make them subject to the provisions of this chapter.

#### **Driver's Training/License Requirements**

PROCEDURE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH IDAHO CODE §49-303A

#### SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OR COMPLETION

If you are under 18 years of age you will need to provide acceptable proof of enrollment and attendance in or graduation from a recognized high school or equivalent program before an instruction permit, driver-training permit or driver's license can be issued. This proof can be in the form of a verification of compliance (VOC) slip from an acceptable school or program you are attending, a high school diploma, or a general education certificate of completion. Students enrolled in a home-education program must have been enrolled in the program for at least one school year prior to the verification of attendance request unless documentation can be provided of meeting the attendance requirement for the school year immediately prior to the year in which you are enrolled in the home education program.

During the summer when schools are not in session, submitting a copy of the last semester's report card may provide verification of compliance. A formal verification of compliance from the school must then be provided before October 1 of the current year or the driver's training permit, SIP, or driver's license will be canceled. When your parents sign the liability statement, they must also sign a statement that you are in compliance with the school attendance provisions of Idaho Code.

If you need additional information on this process, please contact the State of Idaho Transportation Department at (208) 334-8736.

COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL TO:	
<b>DRIVER SERVICES, P.O. BOX 7129, BOISE, ID 83707-1129</b>	

ITD-3856

## TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

**THIS** form is to certify that the below named student is enrolled in a home school education program and is therefore in compliance with §49-303A, Idaho Code.

	Student's Full Name:			
	Student's Date of Birth: _			
Date:		Signed:	Signature of Administrator of Home School Education Program	

#### **Graduation Education Development (GED) Requirements**

Following are the Idaho Statutes pertaining to General Education Development (GED) requirements. For further information, please call the Idaho Department of Education Adult Basic Education office at (208) 332-6933 or visit the webpage <a href="www.sde.state.id.us/certification/adulted.asp">www.sde.state.id.us/certification/adulted.asp</a>.

## 650. GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT TESTS/IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE.

The primary objective of the State Board of Education is to have all students complete their formal education and graduate from high school. However, students who drop out of school and believe it is in their best interest to take the (General Education Development) G.E.D. test may do so under the following conditions and, upon successful completion of all G.E.D. requirements, may apply for an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate. (4-1-97)

- **01. General Education Development Tests.** General Education Development (GED) tests are given by approved testing centers. Fees are set by the testing centers. For successful completion, the test-taker must earn a standard score of at least forty (40) on each of the five (5) tests and must earn an average standard score of forty-five (45) on all five (5) tests. The testing centers will provide an American Government test for individuals who do not have credit in American Government and who plan to apply for an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate. (4-1-97)
- **02. Resident Eligibility Requirement.** To be eligible to take the GED tests, the applicant must be a bona fide resident of the state of Idaho at the time of application. Residency is not gained or lost by reason of military service. (4-1-97)
- **03. Age Criteria.** The applicant must satisfy one (1) of the following age criteria: (4-1-97)
  - a. The applicant must be at least eighteen (18) years of age; (4-1-97)
  - b. The applicant may be sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age and be one (1) year or more behind in credits earned, expelled, recommended by the school, pregnant, or a parent. In such cases, the applicant is eligible if the applicant's school verifies in writing that the student meets one of the above criteria and this verification is on file at the testing center prior to any testing. The school may give its verification only after the applicant and his or her parent or guardian submit in writing a request for the applicant to take the GED tests and the applicant and the applicant's parent or guardian have met with school officials to review and discuss the request. (In cases where the applicant is not living with a parent or guardian, the parent or guardian's verification is not necessary.);(4-1-97)
  - c. The applicant may be sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age and be entering college, the military, or an employment training program (such as the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) or other state or federally-approved program), enrolled in an Adult Basic Education Program, in the Job Corps, or incarcerated. In such cases, the applicant is eligible if the institution involved applies in writing for the applicant to take the GED tests and this application is on file at the testing center prior to any testing. (4-1-97)
- **04. Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate.** The State Department of Education will issue an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate to eligible applicants. The normal fee for issuing a certificate is ten dollars (\$10); however, this fee will be waived for military service personnel and veterans. To be eligible, an applicant must submit the following documents to the State Department of Education: (4-1-97)

- a. An official report of GED test results showing successful completion of all requirements.
   Test scores are accepted as official only when reported directly by official GED Testing
   Centers, the Transcript Service of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education
   Support (DANTES), Veterans Administration hospitals and, in special cases, the GED
   Testing Service. (4-1-97)
- b. An official transcript showing completion of a course in American Government including study of the U.S. Constitution and principles of state and local government. This requirement may be met by resident study in high school or college, correspondence study from an accredited university, DANTES, or by successfully passing the American Government test furnished by the testing center. (4-1-97)
- c. A completed form DD295 on all service personnel. This form is not required of veterans and non-veteran adults. (4-1-97)
- d. A copy of a discharge if the applicant is a veteran of military service. (4-1-97)
- e. Once eligibility is established, the State Department of Education will furnish the applicant with a special application form. After the applicant completes this form and pays the ten-dollar (\$10) processing fee, the applicant will be awarded an Idaho High School Equivalency Certificate. (4-1-97)